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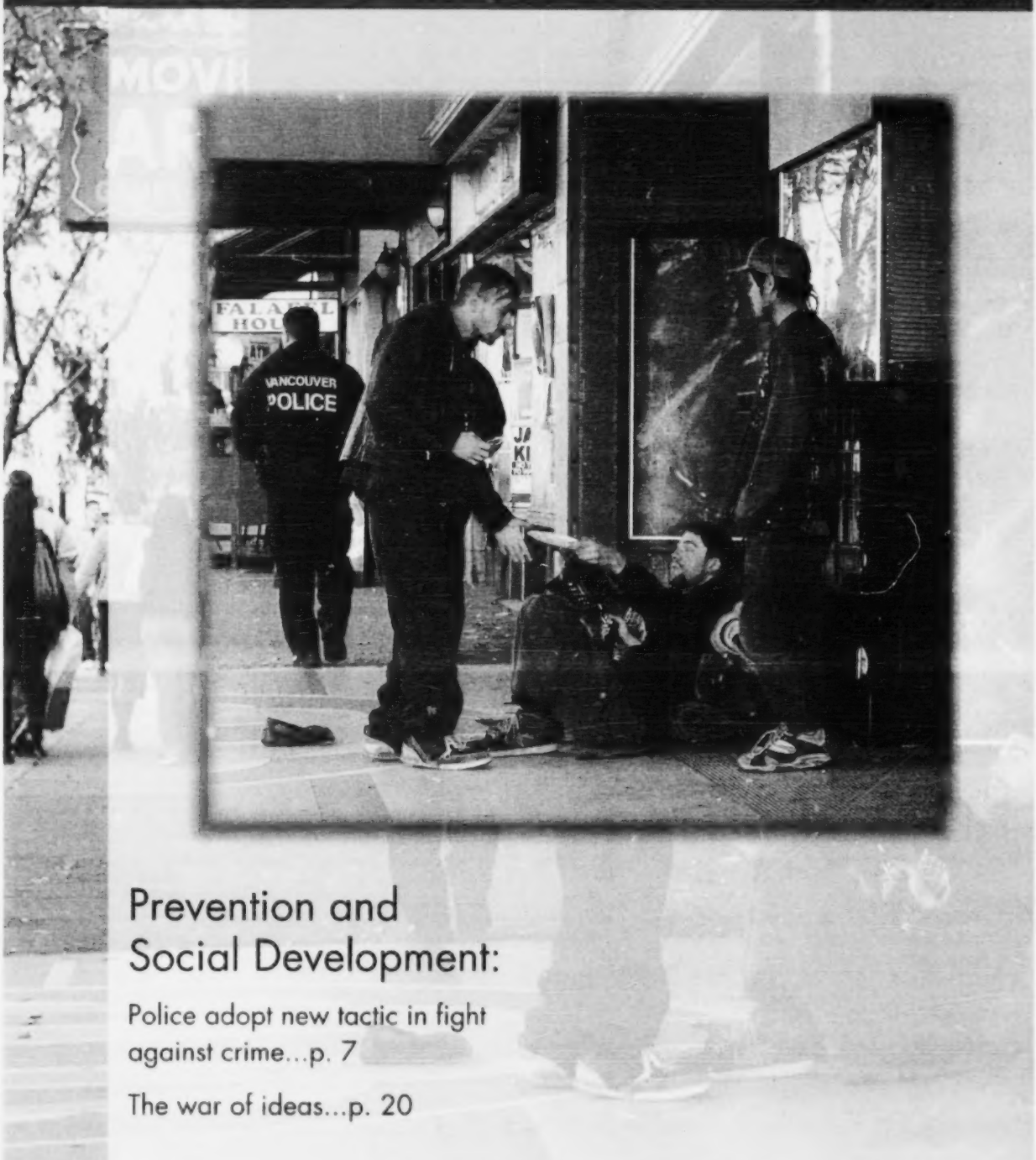

Prevention and Social Development:

Police adopt new tactic in fight against crime...p. 7

The war of ideas...p. 20

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Cover photo by Ivan Grabovac, a Vancouver photographer interested in the social spaces of the city.

Editorial

One thing leads to another. The millions of Canadians involved in social development know that.

Education connects to our job prospects. Employment is connected to where and how we live. Where and how we live can have an impact on our health. And our health sets the tone for most everything else in our lives.

Ever since Aristotle pronounced that "poverty is the parent of revolution and crime," people have known that social and economic well-being is strongly connected to a society which offers safety and security to its citizens.

The CCSD has been making the links between crime prevention and social development for several decades now.

In 1984, we published a discussion paper called *Crime Prevention through Social Development*[1] by Irwin Waller and Dick Weiler. The paper outlined how crime, violence and victimization could be reduced by addressing the social causes of crime. It reported that many studies showed how young children's specific experiences could predispose them to delinquent and criminal behaviour as they got older. The authors recognized that there were limits to how effectively we could address crime simply by increasing spending on police, courts, and corrections. And they made the case that based on the research evidence, investments in preventative measures made sense, both economically and socially.

Now, 23 years later, that evidence still holds true.

Sadly, Canada has not been as successful as we hoped in making changes that can reduce crime and increase the sense of personal security. Canadian crime statistics vary from year to year, but not much has changed. And while improved reporting accounts for some of the increase, it is disturbing to see that the crime rate has increased by 14% since the 1980s.

Is that because we don't spend enough on police services or because our laws are too lenient? Or is it because we have failed to grasp what communities need to invest in to reap the rewards that every Canadian deserves?

We have devoted most of this edition of *Perception* to the issue of crime prevention.

We look at it through international, national, provincial, and community lens. We provide some stark graphs and charts to tell that story, and we profile what some organizations are doing in their communities.

And we discover not that crime pays, but that Canadians themselves are paying a high price for our lack of investment in policies and activities that have been shown to prevent crime.

❧ ❧ ❧

This is my last message as I take my leave as the interim president of the Canadian Council on Social Development.

Over these two years, there have been many changes, intense challenges, and some sadness. I was pleased to help steer the Council through several stages of a major assessment of its role. The restructuring plan we are following still has a few more steps to go. But it is being done with clarity of purpose and a sense of accountability to the importance of social development, our CCSD members, and the Council's 87-year history. ❧

Peter Bleyer
CCSD Interim President

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[1] Waller and Weiler's 1984 work on crime prevention through social development still has resonance with today's issues. You can find it on the CCSD's website at **www.ccsd.ca/cpsd/ccsd/pdf/cptsd1984.pdf**.

Marcel Lauzière returns to the CCSD on March 1st, to resume his role as Council President. He has been with the CCSD since January 2000, but spent the last two years as Deputy Chief Executive of the Policy & Knowledge branch at the New Zealand Ministry of Social Development.

Among his responsibilities was the New Zealand Social Report which provides measurement tools and monitoring of social well-being – nationally, regionally, and locally – and it has been recognized by the OECD as a best practice in this area. Lauzière's CCSD experience was of critical interest to New Zealand – particularly products such as the *Progress of Canada's Children and Youth*, the Urban Poverty Project, the Community Social Data Strategy, and the Personal Security Index – all of which were expanded under his tenure.

Lauzière was also integral to the expansion of the Social Welfare Policy conferences and development of a national Child Care Conference in 2004. These events provided effective models for convening expertise across multiple sectors, as well as information sharing on the use of research and evaluation in social policy and practice.

Lauzière returns to the CCSD at an important time, and his New Zealand experience will enrich and inform the Council's future work. Under the knowledgeable direction of Interim President Peter Bleyer, groundwork has been prepared for the design and development of research, information, and communication products that can be used by local, regional, and national audiences. The Council now enters the next (and very busy) phase of that work.

Welcome home Marcel.
And thank you Peter for heading up the CCSD at a turbulent time for social development.

For your eyes only

As many CCSD members know, the Council has undergone a major restructuring process over the last year. Like many other organizations in both the non-profit and private sectors, uncertainties caused by new funding arrangements, different policy priorities, and increased competition have necessitated some changes in organizational capacity and services.

Throughout this process, the CCSD team has continued to develop information and resource tools that are useful to our diverse membership. And we are working hard to improve our responsiveness to stakeholders and partners as their needs change in this new social development climate.

One of the changes we've instituted is to make *Perception* a CCSD Members-only entitlement. As of January 2007, the magazine will no longer be offered as a subscription; instead, it will be part of the benefits package available exclusively to CCSD members.

By doing so, we hope to be able to focus even more directly on social issues relevant to our members.

Each issue of *Perception* is distributed to our members and partners across the country. Among our broad membership are frontline workers and community-based organizations providing a wide variety of direct services to Canadians of all ages. As well, readers of *Perception* include researchers in other non-profit agencies and in federal, provincial, and municipal government departments, policy-makers, social planners, educators, students, and others who share an interest in the well-being of Canadians. Many legislators and legislative libraries are also *Perception* readers.

Articles from each issue are posted on the CCSD's website at **www.ccsd.ca/percintr.html** and additional printed copies can be ordered for $10. For more information about CCSD membership benefits, including *Perception* magazine, contact Louise Clarke at 613-236-5868, ext. 225 or by e-mail at **membership@ccsd.ca**.

Interview...

with Daniel Sansfaçon, former Deputy Director General of the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC) Canada, in Montreal

What is the Centre's role?

One of its strengths is that the ICPC is the heart of a network of international, national, and local experts on issues related to crime prevention. They come from many different backgrounds and from all regions of the world to develop a common, shared vision about crime prevention.

There is a lot of knowledge available about crime prevention – what works and what are the best approaches based on the evidence. Yet at the same time, there are always issues about the transferability of this knowledge – from one location or one jurisdiction to another. In that respect, the Centre helps transfer knowledge. We are always asking ourselves how we can provide practitioners with useful knowledge and information. In this way, they can be inspired by other practices and can also to be in a position to implement them. So, for instance, we have been facilitating an exchange network among cities in Canada, France, and Belgium on effective responses to public nuisances.

Are there compelling international examples of crime prevention models for Canada?

It varies historically. Prevention policies started in the mid to late 1970s, beginning with the Scandinavian countries. Then the United Kingdom, France, and the Netherlands began developing crime prevention policies in the early 80s. Policies in France around urban regeneration and the integration of crime prevention policies to address the multiplicity of problems in different neighbourhoods could be a source of inspiration.

The United Kingdom passed its *Crime and Disorder Act* in 1998 and made some important investments in crime prevention and urban renewal. They developed some strong programs accompanied by good research and evaluation. At the same time, however, these programs were over-ambitious and to some degree, uncontrollable, because practitioners didn't have the capacity or knowledge to accompany all this effort. So it created more expectations than results.

In Canada, the effort was much more modest – maybe less targeted and less focused. That certainly has been one of the criticisms of the National Crime Prevention Strategy. However, being more modest, it was also more controllable. It has produced results that may not be as visible but are nonetheless very important. I am referring to the gradual creation of expertise and responsibility centres in the provinces and territories. Most likely, these would not have existed without a national strategy.

And these centres, this knowledge, this expertise is really what will ensure the sustainability of the crime prevention strategy. Hopefully, federal funds will always be there. And hopefully, federal leadership will always be present. It will always be limited, however, because this is a shared area of responsibility, and it is normal that provinces and territories will develop their own programs and policies.

So Canada's efforts since the mid-1990s and the creation of the National Crime Prevention Strategy can be considered to be at the forefront of crime prevention internationally. This is particularly clear when we compare it to a decline in France, a forceful but much too ambitious effort in the UK, stagnation in countries like the Netherlands and Norway, and nascent policies in places like Argentina and Chile.

In many of your presentations you talk about a crime prevention strategy as the missing leg of a stool. Can you explain?

The other three legs are cops, courts, and corrections. Obviously those three are all essential. But they happen *after* the crime, so we know the costs of not intervening in a preventative way. In 1996, the costs of crime and violence in Canada were estimated at $40 billion per year. Of that amount, $10 billion went to those three areas. The costs of crime are

also enormous in terms of lost lives, lost days of work, pain and suffering, and costs to the medical system. So for that reason, we know that prevention must be part of the response because it will reduce some of those costs.

It is also the least expensive approach. It costs less that the other three approaches. So you need to have prevention as the fourth leg to prevent victimization, prevent lost lives through delinquency, and to reduce the economic and social costs of crime and victimization.

Is there a difference between prevention and deterrence?

There is a significant distinction between deterrence and prevention. It's much more than just semantics.

Scientific research worldwide has clearly established that one of the best predictors of deterrence is the swiftness of the police response. Responding quickly to a crime that has been committed is much more a predictor of deterrence than the severity of a sentence.

So in that sense, deterrence is a form of prevention.

You have general deterrence: There are those who do not commit crimes for fear of being caught. And you have specific deterrence: For example, there is a police presence on the corner, so you decide not to commit the burglary.

Deterrents are but one form of prevention and function only rarely. That is why we need to have more organized preventative efforts which involve other segments of society, not just the police.

Think, for example, of some of the known risk factors for delinquency: having been a victim of early childhood violence; problem behaviour in school at an early age; the early abuse of substances, beginning with alcohol and tobacco; and eventually, suspension from school and dropping out.

You wouldn't ask the police to intervene on any one of these risk factors, let alone a combination of them. You can, however, have successful interventions through programs such as home visits from nurses to prevent child abuse in families at risk, or programs to support kids staying in school when they have problem behaviour, or family therapy. These are the kinds of programs that have demonstrated a preventative effect. In addition, they also provide other benefits such as better inclusion of the whole family into society and improved chances of being integrated into the labour market. So these kinds of preventative programs offer significant benefits – in addition to being less costly.

ICPC's Resource Centre houses a unique international collection of material on community safety and crime prevention. More than 3,000 books, journals, government reports, statistics, and other documents can be consulted in the reference library (by appointment only) or electronically via the website at www.crime-prevention-intl.org.

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Editor's note: In January 2007, the ICPC received over $400,000 in funding from the federal government. The money will be used to publish comparative analysis reports on best practices and policies around crime prevention and help the Centre maintain its knowledge base.

Daniel Sansfaçon is the former Deputy Director General of the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime. He now works as Director of Research at the National Crime Prevention Centre in Ottawa. He was interviewed for Perception by Gail Dugas at a meeting on crime prevention through social development.

Widening The Thin Blue Line

–Why police are partnering with social development groups

by Gail Dugas

It doesn't have the dramatic plot line of an episode of CSI, but police have been working on some new ideas for fighting crime.

Chief Jack Ewatski

The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP) has been using its profile to support the concept of crime prevention through social development. And they are actively working to spread the word.

"Those of us who have been around policing for years realize that public safety in this country goes way beyond the narrow viewpoint of law enforcement," says Jack Ewatski, Chief of the Winnipeg Police Service and President of the CACP. "Canadian crime rates go up and down. But over time, we haven't seen a dramatic decrease in crime. After everything we've tried to do over the years, we have to step back and admit that maybe we're not doing the right things. Maybe we don't have the right players doing the right things."

The social development aspect is one prong in the CACP's work to modernize policing in Canada. The Association has been lobbying the federal government to conduct an in-depth review of policing in Canada. They point out that over the last 20 years, the costs of policing have skyrocketed, and the roles and jurisdictions have become increasing blurred. The CACP argues that local crime problems are often linked to broader social development or global issues.

"We can't be held responsible – we shouldn't be held responsible – for crime prevention solely on our own," says Ewatski. "Law enforcement is critical. But trying to determine why crimes occur is important on a whole number of fronts.

"There is a link between school suspensions and crime. We need to spread the word that there are effective ways to prevent one event in a youth's life from becoming a much larger problem."
Sandra Côté, Alternative Suspension Programme, YMCA of Greater Montreal

"Police need the rest of the community to help them develop this social development perspective. It's not going to happen on its own."
Christine Mountsteven, Canadian Pensioners Concerned

"This is a broad-based coalition and not just 'the usual suspects' talking about social development issues. It has potential for making a big difference."
Louise Hanvey, Canadian Nurses Association

"We are working to shift perspectives on what 'justice' is. Sitting at the table with so many different groups helps sharpen our understanding of what our work should be."
Jane Griffiths, Church Council on Justice and Corrections

Many of those preventative issues revolve around society's inability to provide the proper safety nets and activities. It is especially important when dealing with young people to ensure that there are a number of things in place. It's fine to say that it starts at home with parents or people acting in parental roles. But it goes well beyond that."

From a police perspective, that's where a coalition comes in.

> **Every part of social development has a crime prevention aspect to it.**

Coalition-building

In 2004, the Association received funding from the federal National Crime Prevention Strategy to develop a coalition of national organizations that were not traditionally involved in police issues, community safety, or crime prevention. That funding continues until March 2007.

The CACP has organized three national meetings with a participant list that reads like the "Who's Who" of social development issues: literacy groups, seniors' organizations, public health agencies, educators, youth and faith groups, and many others. The coalition operates on the premise that for effective community safety, a national vision and action plan are necessary.

"A clear message emerged from these roundtable discussions," says Chief Ewatski. "Accessible social services which support individuals and families are key ingredients to building safe and healthy communities. Investments in the development of individuals, families and communities are not a frill. They result in short- and long-term savings in law enforcement, courts and corrections."

The roundtables also reinforced what many in the social development community already know: while there is a wealth of information and innumerable examples of best practices across the country, that rich knowledge base is disjointed. Many good programs and initiatives suffer from the "pilot project" syndrome – they are not able to demonstrate results in the short

What the federal government has to say about tackling crime

Excerpt from the 2006 Speech from the Throne

"Canadians have always taken pride in our low crime rates. Safe streets have long characterized Canada's communities – from villages to towns to cities. Safe communities allow families and businesses to prosper.

Unfortunately, our safe streets and healthy communities are increasingly under threat of gun, gang and drug violence.

This Government will tackle crime. It will propose changes to the Criminal Code to provide tougher sentences for violent and repeat offenders, particularly those involved in weapons-related crimes. It will help prevent crime by putting more police on the street and improving the security of our borders.

It is equally important that we prevent criminal behaviour before it has a chance to take root. To this end, the Government will work with the provinces and territories to help communities provide hope and opportunity for our youth, and end the cycle of violence that can lead to broken communities and broken lives."

time spans of project funding. And shrinking resources in other programs leave little time for networking or communicating positive results.

Coalition members see a national crime prevention action plan as one of the keys to overcoming the "silo effect" that has limited the effectiveness of the sector to this point.

> **Crime prevention, like health care, is most effective with a long-term approach and national vision.**

"It has to be comprehensive," says Ewatski. "That's why we supported forming the coalition and brought in groups that haven't traditionally sat at the same table. Every part of social development has a crime prevention aspect to it."

"We all recognize that no one national association can do it alone," says Peter Dudding, executive director of the Child Welfare League. "None of us owns crime prevention, and no one has a monopoly on social development."

Making the pitch

In a letter to Prime Minister Harper last summer, Ewatski argued that "communities are looking for proven, long-term solutions that go beyond short-term project funding where quick solutions cannot be sustained."

Strategically, having social development groups in partnership with a police organization that represents 90% of the police agencies in Canada presents one of the few opportunities for discussions of these issues with cabinet ministers.

Vic Toews was Canada's Justice Minister before he was moved to Treasury Board in January 2007. A former Attorney General in Manitoba, the Winnipeg MP represents Ewatski's hometown. Ewatski has met with him four times and had discussions with the new federal Justice Minister Stockwell Day, as well.

"We're the experts in our field, and we've had plenty of experience dealing with issues of crime. Our voices need to be heard," says Ewatski.

They may speak some of the same language, but the jury is still out on whether the crime prevention message is getting through.

"Reducing crime" was one of the Conservative government's top five priorities when they took office. But the majority of money for that file was earmarked to build Canada's capacity to fight international terrorism. A much smaller percentage of those funds was allocated to prevention initiatives.

The National Crime Prevention Centre, which has funded the CACP coalition initiative, was hit with a $6 million funding cut in late 2006.

And while coalition members have discussed the need for a federal vision, crime prevention – like policing itself – is a complicated mix of federal, provincial, and community jurisdictions.

The concept of crime prevention has yet to reach that tipping point where policy-makers, politicians, and even frontline officers see it as a long-term project. But that could be changing. Ewatski sees a newer generation of officers who understand that it's neither soft nor naïve to want to change the underlying causes of crime. And he says most politicians he speaks to understand that as well – although they have yet to view it as an investment, rather than a drain on the public purse.

Like the health care system

Ewatski likens the traditional response to crime and enforcement to that of emergency wards in hospitals. "When you are in the thick of it, you are dealing with something that must be addressed at that exact point in time," he says. "But we have realized that it is less expensive and smarter to invest in the preventative side of things. That doesn't eliminate emergencies, but there are many things we can prevent from happening. We've got to recognize that crime prevention, like health care, is most effective with a long-term approach and national vision."

Coalition on Community Safety, Health and Well-being: **www.cacp.ca/CSHW_SSBC/default.htm**

Behind the Headlines:
How one community is working to overcome youth crime

Last October, many Canadians were horrified by media reports that a disabled Winnipeg-area youth had been locked in a burning shed by a group of children, some as young as eight years old. The incident prompted immediate calls across the country for stiffer penalties for young offenders and a return to "law and order."

Photo by Lisa Janke, Nor'West Co-op Community Health Centre.

As with many headline-making events, the media furor subsided. But questions remain: What has changed in the months following those headlines? What can a community do to prevent crime?

The incident took place in Gilbert Park, a public housing community that spans several city blocks on the outskirts of Winnipeg's North End. It is an area that has been plagued by arson, vandalism, and bullying.

And because Gilbert Park doesn't quite fall into the boundaries of the North End core, it has been orphaned. It doesn't have full access to the same level of services that are usually considered necessary for a community where 85% of residents live below the poverty line, many are single-parent families, more than 50% of the residents are under age 15, the proportion of new Canadians is rapidly rising, and more than 60% are newly urban Aboriginal and Métis.

"It is clear that previous initiatives geared to the inner city haven't broadened their scope to include that area," says Wayne Helgason, Executive Director of the Winnipeg Social Planning Council and Board Chair of the Canadian Council on Social Development. "The issues in Gilbert Park are not being comprehensively addressed."

But that is not for a lack of trying. For several years now, people who live in and work with the Gilbert Park community have been pushing ahead on programs meant to go head-to-head with some of these overwhelming challenges.

"There is no question that this is a community under stress," says Michelle Kirkbride, community development co-ordinator at the Nor'West Co-Op Community Health Centre. "Many of the risk factors for criminal behaviour are definitely here. We know from working with local kids and their parents that bullying is by far the biggest issue. And with bullying comes peer pressure that is actually quite dangerous, especially as the children get older."

Nor'West serves 30,000 people in the area which includes and surrounds Gilbert Park. Several years ago, it created the Gilbert Park Resource Centre to identify solutions specifically designed for the neighbourhood. A prevention strategy aimed at high-risk behaviour brought in major players from across the city, including provincial and municipal government representatives and the United Way. It also

set the stage for the creation of a teen clinic, a program aimed at pre-teen and teenaged girls, and adoption of an internationally recognized violence prevention program called Safe Teen.

Kirkbride stresses that while the community was given the opportunity to develop its own unique solutions, it was not left on its own to address all the challenges.

"When you are a single mom working all day and trying to raise your kids, it's not easy or even possible to do the work required to turn your neighbourhood around."

Co-operative Solutions

The province of Manitoba, through its Healthy Child initiative, has become a recognized leader in building the kind of wider framework that helps break down departmental silos. The aim of the initiative is to develop comprehensive policies that recognize the very real connections between a child's environment, their health and well-being, and the well-being of the larger community.

Although he has yet to make a firm commitment, Manitoba's Minister of Family Services and Housing says he plans to invest $1.85 million to improve housing conditions in the neighbourhood and support future programs for parenting and family literacy.

"For sure, more people now seem to get it. They understand that many things are inter-connected and how early investments in certain areas can pay off," says Kirkbride. "There is also a growing recognition that results take time." That understanding has made it easier to gain longer-term support from both the government and the United Way, rather than having to continuously apply for short-term projects.

Kirkbride is hopeful that corporate support, including a recent partnership with Pizza Hut, will also recognize the benefits of a sustained investment.

But the fact remains that more than half of the 500 kids who live in the Gilbert Park neighbourhood don't have access to supervised after-school or weekend programs. The local schools are overcrowded. And a facility for the Boys and Girls Club had to be created by knocking down walls between two apartment units and scheduling the children in shifts.

"We can serve 60 to 70 kids," says Mike Owen, executive director of the Winnipeg Boys and Girls Club. "Like many clubs in Manitoba and elsewhere, we have more demand than we can handle."

Kirkbride knows that means missed opportunities. One program, called Prairie Theatre Exchange, has been wildly successful in skill-building and providing a way for kids to "work out issues," she says. "Now we have several students applying for scholarships, whereas before they wouldn't even have thought about it."

Ongoing Work

Within a week of the burning-shed incident, the family of one of the children involved visited the victim's family to apologize and make amends.

Several of the children were referred to a city-wide police program aimed at kids under 12 who have come into contact with the law. Under that program, the young people and their families can access therapy or other services. And during the course of that work, it became clear that the perpetrators had themselves been victimized by a vicious bullying cycle.

Those kinds of community-based programs have the support of Winnipeg Police Chief Jack Ewatski, who often speaks about the important role and effectiveness of social development in preventing crime.

That's a heartening development for Kirkbride who feels that newspaper headlines and call-in shows lobbying for a law and order solution miss the point. "There is much more work to be done, but it is a hopeful time," says Kirkbride.

Want to know more?

Nor'West Co-Op Community Health Centre
www.norwesthealth.ca/
Healthy Child Manitoba
www.gov.mb.ca/healthychild/
Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police
www.cacp.ca/

Crime Institute to study science of prevention

Photo by Jason Chiu

Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day answers media questions at the launch of the Institute for the Prevention of Crime.

There's a science to solving crime. But can you use science to prevent crime? The Institute for the Prevention of Crime (IPC) is based on the premise that you can.

The IPC was created with a grant of $1.6 million, distributed over three years, from the federal government's National Crime Prevention Strategy. The Institute is combining forces with the University of Ottawa to create a collection of evidence-based products geared to those who make policy, those who invest in programs, and those who work on the frontlines.

"Ultimately what we are about is defining what needs to be addressed to reduce crime and how data, information, and networking can be used to identify problems and target resources," says IPC Director Irvin Waller.

"Defining success is tough when it comes to crime prevention," admits Holly Johnson, the Institute's senior research associate. "Reducing the crime rate can be one measure of success." But the former research director of the Centre for Justice Statistics warns that success based solely on a falling crime rate is heavily dependent on having police statistics that are reliable and constant over time, with nothing else changing in the community. Instead, Johnson's work over the past two decades has been to develop a methodology to overlay justice and crime data with other indicators.

"We now know quite a lot about risk factors," she says. "Addressing how we tackle proven risk factors is another measure of success."

One often-cited risk factor involves very young teen mothers. And it's an example Johnston uses frequently.

> "What works kept coming off the page."

"Long-term evaluations – really long term – have clearly shown success when a community supports a program of public health nurses working with high-risk young mothers. It breaks down the isolation. It reduces the risk of child abuse. It can help detect other problems, including partner violence. This kind of program has been clearly shown to be quite effective in terms of addressing delinquency."

You might not see those effects for many years, Johnson cautions. But a community can chart the change in risk factors that have proven to have a long-term effect on improving children's outcomes.

An important pillar of the Institute's work is information sharing at the municipal level. And Johnson has been tasked with bringing

the communities together. A network is being set up of municipalities across Canada that are working on crime prevention and community safety initiatives. The primary goal of the network is to provide timely access to Canadian and international knowledge, says Johnson. She is working on plans for a face-to-face meeting of the network this summer.

"There is lots of amazing and interesting work being done at a local level," Johnson says. "This kind of collaboration helps identify current gaps in our knowledge and future needs."

Systemic change requires as much political savvy as it does expertise in the root causes of crime.

The public face of the Institute is its bilingual website. Charts, surveys, tables, and graphs provide the backbone for the site. As a testament to the volume of work being done at the community level, an entire page of links highlights examples across Canada from Vancouver to Montreal. The site also includes toolkits and guides from around the world.

That kind of comprehensive approach can help policy-makers choose more effective ways to harmonize policies between government departments and among governments at the federal, provincial, and municipal levels. At the same time, creating an information bank of best practices helps build the case for taking the long-term view of community programming.

"The driving force behind the Institute is that it will speak for prevention and its role in the big picture," says Professor Ross Hastings, co-director of the Institute. "There are many organizations that can and will argue the case for cops, courts, and corrections and how integral they are to our system. But if you attack or ignore prevention, who is there to defend it, and what kinds of evidence can they use to defend it?"

Like Waller, Hastings has worked in the crime prevention field for more than 30 years. He knows that illustrating the evidence – no matter how clear or accessible – is only one part of the process. It's also necessary to create political will that supports a prevention viewpoint by investing in infrastructure.

"We've won the battle of convincing the public, politicians, and bureaucrats that, in theory, crime prevention is a good idea," says Hastings. "What we haven't been as successful at is getting them to change practices."

That kind of systemic change requires as much political savvy as it does expertise in the root causes of crime.

To that end, the Institute is working with a national community-based advisory group to help fine-tune its approach. It has created a network of municipalities and made a presentation to the federal-provincial-territorial government committee on crime prevention. But after 30 years, Hastings, the former head of the National Crime Prevention Council, sees the bottom line quite clearly.

"Until crime prevention is given a political and administration profile that puts it on par with police, courts and corrections, not much will change," he says. "We need an appointment at the deputy minister level. We need someone with political clout to bring this issue to the table." Hastings hopes that the IPC can help build an understanding that "Canadians are paying a price for how we organize our society around crime issues."

At the Institute's launch in September, Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day said, "We need to know what works when it comes to the prevention of crime. And when we looked at the proposal for this Institute, those two words – what works – kept coming off the page."

Yet, like other crime prevention initiatives, the Institute itself has been given a tight timeline. Over the next three years, it must prove that it works – not only to Stockwell Day, but also to Canadians working in social development.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

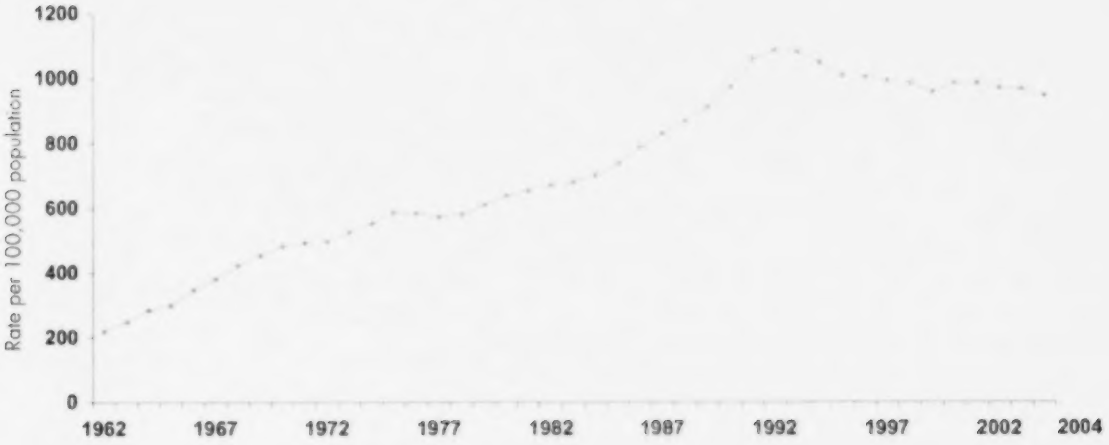
The Institute for the Prevention of Crime website is **www.socialsciences.uottawa.ca/ipc/**.

The CCSD's crime prevention subsite can be found at **www.ccsd.ca/cpsd/ccsd/**.
- A series of Bulletins highlighting community work on crime prevention through social development can be found at **www.ccsd.ca/cpsd/ccsd/bulletins.htm**.
- The 1984 report *Crime Prevention through Social Development* by Irvin Waller and Richard Weiler is at **www.ccsd.ca/cpsd/ccsd/pdf/cptsd1984.pdf**.

Canadian Crime Statistics

What we know about...

Violent crime recorded by police, Canada, 1962 to 2004

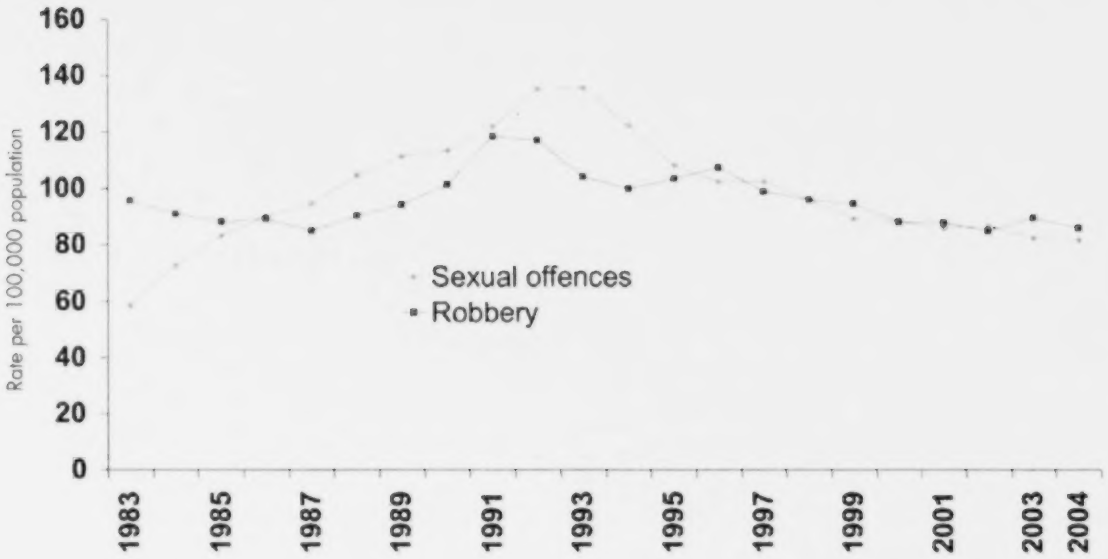


Source: "A picture of crime in Canada," Powerpoint presentation by Holly Johnson and Melanie Bania, University of Ottawa, using data from Statistics Canada's Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Property crime recorded by police, Canada, 1962 to 2004

Source: "A picture of crime in Canada," Powerpoint presentation by Holly Johnson and Melanie Bania, University of Ottawa, using data from Statistics Canada's Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Rates of sexual offences & robbery, Canada, 1983 to 2004



Source: "A picture of crime in Canada," Powerpoint presentation by Holly Johnson and Melanie Bania, University of Ottawa, using data from Statistics Canada's Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Risk factors that contribute to delinquency

	Individual	Relationship	Community	Society
Prenatal	- Substance abuse by mother - Poverty and teen pregnancy	- Partner violence	- Low community support for high-risk mothers	- Policies supportive of economic inequality
Childhood & adolescence	- Poor readiness to learn - Poor social skills, impulsivity, hyperactivity - Alcohol & drug abuse	- Low family income - Poor parenting style - Parental violence - Child abuse & neglect - Bullying - Low school attachment - Delinquent peers	- Low community resources for children & families - Quality & safety of neighbourhood - High mobility - Low social cohesion	- Social exclusion - Policies regarding school expulsion - Norms supportive of violence

Source: "A picture of crime in Canada," Powerpoint presentation by Holly Johnson and Melanie Bania, University of Ottawa, using data from US NRC 2001; US Study Group on Very Young Offenders; HRSDC 2006; Statistics Canada.

CPSD: A Cautionary Tale of Criminal Policy Change

COMMENTARY

by Dr. Ross Hastings

Editor's Note: A longer version of this commentary was originally presented in October 2006 at a national roundtable sponsored by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police.

How can we turn a good idea – crime prevention through social development (CPSD) – into a political reality and develop community practices that actually help advance the cause? That is the challenge of social change.

Fortunately, CSPD is "on the map." It's popular with the public and increasingly so with politicians. It has become an accepted part of our criminal justice policy and is funded as part of criminal justice practice, although not to the extent we might like. And while the 1993 Horner Report recommended that 1% of annual federal funding go to crime prevention, the actual amount spent is much less and recent cuts are worrisome.

> **Is CPSD just another fad or has it become a permanent part of the landscape?**

So is CPSD just another fad or has it become a permanent part of the landscape? Are things getting better or worse? And are we properly organized for success – or are we heading for failure?

The notion of CPSD remains somewhat vague, and there's less consensus than one might think. People may jump on the bandwagon, but they tend to jump off when commitments are required. The vaguer the notion, the more difficult it is to build political momentum.

Are we misreading the climate for change? Is this the right idea at the right time? CPSD may have been the right idea in the 1960s and 70s during Trudeau's "Just Society," but it may be a harder sell in 2007 as Canada moves more in the direction of discipline and control.

We also haven't spent enough time figuring out who is against us. Some may disagree with the basic concept, believing in punishment rather than rehabilitation. But the really tough resistance comes from organizations that don't necessarily want to change the way they do things. Or it can come from workers who don't want to change the way they work, or from clients who may not access services for the reasons you think they do.

All orders of government have made it clear that there will not be a lot of money available for crime prevention; it will have to come from existing areas. That means trying to take money for crime prevention from prisons or courts. Of course, that's unlikely to happen as everybody thinks, "Not from my pocket!"

So are we making progress? Are we clear on what we are trying to do? Or have we misread the climate for change and taken on organizational change in a naïve and unsystematic way?

A conceptual muddle

There are at least three different streams of crime prevention through social development. Each has a different theoretical premise and different practices, and each stream requires different partners in order to get results. In each case, how we define the problem and identify its causes or risk factors will lead to different priorities and different strategies for intervention.

> **How we define the problem will lead to different priorities and intervention strategies.**

In the **developmental stream** of CPSD, the focus is on persistent deviance. Research indicates that 5% to 10% of people commit 50% to 70% of all crimes. Using longitudinal studies – for example, following kids from birth to youth to adulthood in order to track their criminal record – helps identify the predictors of criminal behaviour (such as violent families, academic difficulties, etc.). Interventions are then targeted to those factors to break the developmental sequence. In this approach, the focus is primarily on the family (e.g., programs around family violence), the education system (e.g., programs around bullying), and to some extent, the local community to address those risk factors.

> **In the real world, risk factors are not randomly distributed throughout society.**

There are two main problems with this approach. The methods used are intrusive and assume that the person is potentially guilty until proven innocent, thereby justifying our intervention activities. The other problem is the tendency to blame the victim.

In the real world, however, risk factors are not randomly distributed throughout society; the patterns of risk are predictable and highly correlated with poverty and inequity.

In the **social stream** of CPSD, the focus is on patterns of redistribution. This approach recognizes that being poor is not just happenstance; it has real consequences, including greater exposure to crime and a higher probability of being victimized. So in the social stream, the focus is on developing social policies and programs that help redistribute resources, reduce stress and deprivation, and reduce inequality.

The third stream of CPSD focuses on the delivery of programs by the **community**. It talks about mobilization and partnerships rather than causality. It recognizes that governments will not take on the costs of big initiatives and will instead look to communities to become more involved. The point is that local communities are the default solution when governments and the private sector refuse to do more. Actions under this CPSD approach focus on what communities need to do to engage in problem-solving and to sustain that engagement long enough to address individual risk factors, the reality of inequality, and the potential for redistribution.

When we talk about CPSD, ideally we should be talking about all three approaches: developmental, plus social, plus community. And we need to think about how to make links among them.

The climate for change

The public likes crime prevention: 80% of Canadians – and 90% of Quebeckers – want more prevention. But how strong is that support?

To change behaviour, a change in attitude is necessary – but it's not sufficient. We may have convinced people that there are limits to the existing criminal justice system, but we haven't been as successful in getting them to change their behaviours as a result. For example, while most people approve of Neighbourhood Watch programs, few actually go to the meetings or become involved. Over the last 25 years, we've seen huge behavioural changes in areas like smoking, drinking and driving, and recycling. We have a lot to learn from those examples about how to make a successful transition from attitudes to behavioural change.

> **How do we get from a change in attitude to behavioural change and action?**

There is also a difference between action and impact. For example, there's little evidence that Neighbourhood Watch programs make much difference to crime rates. It's relatively easy to set up such programs in "good" communities where people are already doing most things well. But the areas that most need Neighbourhood Watch types of activities are communities that are highly transient, where

most people are renters or don't have homes, and don't want to invest themselves in their community. So we confuse implementation with impact. We're not using the best evidence-based crime prevention to ensure the kinds of impacts that we'd like.

So we face two big challenges: How do we get from attitudes to action? And how do we get better at doing things that will work?

Resistance to change

No one resists things that improve their quality of life. When asked to change, people logically think, "What's in it for me?" If the answer is more work, less pay and more aggravation, they'll resist.

Resistance to change comes on three levels:

1) Organizational: An organization's first imperative is survival, not service delivery. And to ensure its survival, an organization must be hard-nosed about protecting its mandate and client-base; it must keep the money flowing in.

2) Among workers: While workers may not object to the intent of a change, they'll resist its implementation if it requires personal changes such as in their hours of work, commuting arrangements, or child care arrangements. If we try to start the change process by changing people's attitudes, we're going to fail. Instead, we need to first change the behaviours, re-task the workers, and focus on the middle-management level. If the change works for them, workers will adjust their attitudes.

3) Among clients: We should not assume that people respond to services in the way we hope and expect. For example, imposing probation rather than a jail sentence may be seen as a "victory" by the kid who committed the crime, but his mother may feel that the system is asking her to play cop. For her, the notion of probation may not seem like a good idea, and she will resist it.

Conclusion

So where do we stand with respect to CPSD?

First, we have a popular but ambiguous notion, so we have to be very careful. There may be broad support for CPSD, but it may also be quite shallow. And it's still unclear whether that support can be easily converted into action.

Second, it's unclear who speaks for CPSD. Crime prevention is an easy target for politicians. $14 million was recently cut from National Crime Prevention Centre and nobody said anything. There is a leadership vacuum. And there is a great deal of cynicism about the expertise of criminologists and crime experts. Many people are confident that they know what's going on with crime and what to do about it, even though many don't know the basic facts.

Finally, too often what gets operationalized are the things that communities are able and willing to deliver. Those tend to be programs that address some of the risk factors, but do nothing to address the social dimensions of crime. Communities are simply not empowered with the mandate or resources to work on the social front.

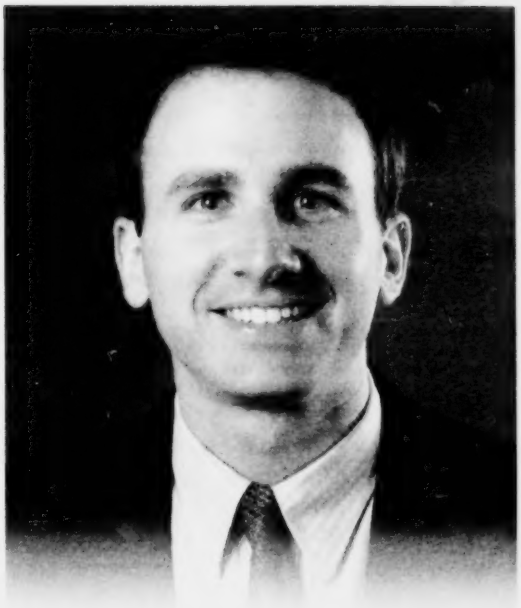
The risk is that the CPSD movement may become a voice for conservatism. If crime is reducible to the developmental model – that is, in order to make our communities safe we must address individual risk factors – the social dimension gets left out of the equation.

So be very careful about drifting too far to the developmental and community streams of CPSD. You may not be where you had anticipated.

Ross Hastings is Chair of the Department of Criminology and Co-director of the Institute for the Prevention of Crime at the University of Ottawa.

Thinking Outside the Box: Working hard or working smart?

by Gail Dugas



Are progressive Canadian think tanks and foundations losing ground because of how they work?

An American researcher who has been studying what he calls "The War of Ideas" among U.S. think tanks has come up with some interesting material that Canadian organizations might want to consider.

Andrew Rich, an associate professor of political science at City College of New York, has surveyed approximately 450 American think tanks and foundations. He is currently writing a book on the subject, and some of his preliminary work has appeared in the *Stanford Social Innovation Review*.

Rich maintains that conservative organizations in America have been more influential, not because of their numbers or their funding, but because of their organizational approach.

While conservative organizations have embraced the idea that they are engaged in a "war or battle of ideas," progressive organizations tend to reject that notion. And most progressive organizations do not have the "bench-strength" needed to connect their position to politics or a wider world view.

"For conservative organizations, understanding the politics is the glue that holds the movement together," says Rich.

In surveys, conservative organizations always answered that neutrality or objectivity was not possible in social policy research.

"Yet I found that the leaders of liberal organizations were often pre-occupied with the idea that they were producing objective research," he says. "They believed that as long as the research was out there, the quality of the work would sell itself. And there was a discomfort with being more visible or building connections to advocates because of a concern with being considered ideological."

Rich also found that the organizational models were widely different.

He uses the example of the Heritage Foundation, considered by many to be the pre-eminent conservative think tank in the United States.

"They decide on their priority issues and immediately form teams. Those teams are made up of a researcher, specialists in government relations, communications and media, a development person, and a team leader. They more or less sit as equals as they assess research needs, identify communities of interest, and how to frame the project." Rich also found that conservative organizations tend to spend substantially more of their project budgets on dissemination strategies and government relations.

Progressive organizations, on the other hand, are more comfortable with a quasi-academic model that is primarily research-driven.

Professor Rich can be reached at **ARich@ccny.cuny.edu**. His article, *The War of Ideas* can be read at **www.ssireview.org**.

Research:
Why progressive U.S. think tanks are losing the war of ideas

Synthesis from *War of Ideas: Why Mainstream and Liberal Foundations and the Think Tanks They Support are Losing the War of Ideas in American Politics*, by Andrew Rich.

Traditionally, foundations have committed resources to address society's ills – but they remained wary of straying too close to the political sphere. Today, a notable portion of foundation spending supports research and advocacy to influence how elected officials and the public think about a broad range of policies.

Conservatives have been more effective than progressive funders, not because they spend more money, but because they have found ways to package and aggressively promote their ideas. Their money is providing more bang for the buck.

By contrast, mainstream foundations remain reluctant to make explicit financial commitments to the war of ideas, and they do relatively little to support the marketing of liberal ideas. They look to experts to generate "scientific knowledge" that moves policy-making.

They are often not organized to support progressive think tanks in the broad-based war of ideas – or to see that as their role. They tend to be organized by issue area. That means prospective grantees are also organized that way.

To make matters more difficult, progressive think tanks have a hard time getting general organizational support. Foundations want to support projects – specific, well-defined, discreet projects. As James Piereson, executive director of the conservative John M. Olin Foundation, commented: "The liberal foundations became too project oriented. We, on the other hand, support institutions. We provide the infrastructure for institutions."

For many mainline foundations, the primary concern is funding rigorous research that strives to be neutral. For them, think tanks and policy institutes should be homes to the disinterested expert.

Neutral, unbiased research is not a preoccupation of foundations on the right. As one long-time think tank leader observed, "Liberal foundations are liberal in their belief in social and economic justice, and in their belief in the possibility of neutrality, which makes them uncomfortable making grants that seem too 'political.' " A research director of a progressive think tank is even more pointed: "If you're on the left, you go to the foundations and say you're neutral, unbiased – not politicized. If you're ideological, they don't want to support you. It's frustrating, because if you're on the right, the foundations will only fund you if you toe the ideological line."

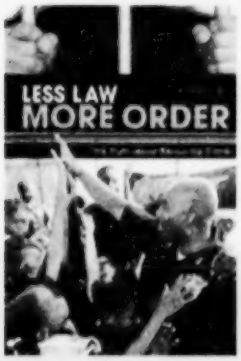
The evidence suggests that conservative think tanks have made marketing conservative ideas a priority with the full knowledge and support of conservative foundations. It is what makes them not only well funded but also influential.

Conservative foundations have also harnessed the power of grassroots organizing, notes Larry Kressley from the Public Welfare Foundation. Kressley says that to be effective, progressive groups need to take the strategies of the right and apply them to causes such as public education, affordable health care, and a just criminal justice system. "If being for these things make us ideological, then so be it."

Published in the Stanford Social Innovation Review, Spring 2005 (**www.ssireview.org**). Used with permission.

Book Review

by Chief Edgar A. MacLeod



Less Law, More Order: The Truth About Reducing Crime

by Irvin Waller

Crime is currently a hot-button topic in every country, and tackling crime has been given top billing by governments on the national and international stages. It is against this backdrop that *Less Law, More Order: The Truth about Reducing Crime* has been released by Canadian criminologist Irvin Waller.

The timing of Waller's non-fiction offering could not have been better. Governments everywhere are struggling to balance the escalating costs of public safety against increasing demands – and in a context of limited fiscal capacity. This reality is further complicated by a fiercely competitive global environment that seeks quick results for a minimum investment. Public officials who read the book will be pleased that Waller's suggested "way forward" requires no additional expenditures, just wiser practices around current spending – especially policing.

Sound too good to be true? Perhaps. I will offer my perspective following a brief synopsis of the book.

The stage for Waller's book is the United States. He takes the reader on a journey through the crime problem in the U.S., and examines the responses of cities like New York, Boston, and Chicago. He questions the conventional public understanding that it was increased police numbers and tougher enforcement that lead to the impressive reduction in crime in New York. Rather, he suggests that the drop in crime there can be largely attributed to an overall drop in the U.S. crime rate, and not as a result of increased police enforcement as was touted in a public relations campaign. Waller uses impressive research to support his claim that more arrests lead to more enforcement, not crime reduction.

Waller compares the crime situation in the U.S. to that of Canada, France, and the United Kingdom. He then explores crime reduction strategies employed by these other countries. He also uses other American cities, such as Boston and Chicago, as examples of where successful crime prevention measures have been implemented. The challenge – not unique to these cities – is how to embed those measures into the way a city regularly does business. In fact, the examples demonstrate the difficulties in *sustaining* measures that have proven to be effective.

There is a general undertone throughout the book that, with a few exceptions, police motives are primarily based on the self-serving objective of enforcement. Waller maintains that police-led crime prevention strategies generally emphasize more law enforcement and less prevention. Instead, he underscores the importance of local government taking on the primary responsibility for crime reduction. Local government, he suggests, is best positioned

to facilitate a multi-agency strategy with sustainable funding from other levels of government.

Less Law, More Order is a very worthwhile read in that it brings together significant research demonstrating that crime reduction can occur when social development shortfalls are addressed. Waller suggests that the "way forward" is to shift a portion of public expenditures away from law enforcement in order to address these social development issues.

But Waller's "way forward" exposes a lack of understanding of policing, the complexities of governance, and the role of ordinary citizens. His views of policing are stereotypical and outdated. In assessing the costs and resources of policing, he fails to acknowledge the vastly improved quality of today's police investigations, the increased complexity of investigations, and the substantive investments made in preventive policing. He should be aware that, right in his own backyard, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP) have facilitated – not led – a national dialogue on crime prevention which has resulted in the formation of a coalition of diverse NGOs, government, and police committed to working as equals on a comprehensive crime prevention strategy.

Waller's thesis also over-estimates the power of local governments. The current ambiguity over policing roles and responsibilities – by all orders of government in Canada – significantly limits any influence that municipalities can exert over crime prevention expenditures. Waller should also have recognized the CACP's efforts in pursuing policy integration as one of their key strategic priorities. For several years now, the Association has called on all levels of government to sit around the same table in order to clarify who is responsible for what, who pays for what, and who is accountable for what. Without this clarity, the responsibility for preventing crime floats in a sea of ambiguity that serves no one very well, particularly our citizens.

Waller's exploration of international crime prevention practices is impressive. However, many of the examples involve a more unitary system of government and therefore, a more streamlined system of governance. Lessons learned from these international examples should be qualified when applied to federated systems of government, as in the United States and Canada, where governance takes on an additional complexity.

Less Law, More Order gives little credence to the roles and responsibilities of ordinary citizens. This void leaves the reader with the impression that citizens are simply consumers of government services, rather than integral players in designing and implementing solutions. For ironically, it is ordinary citizens who represent the largest area of untapped potential for reducing crime – not only through their own efforts, but also through their increased awareness about the prevention of crime, which in turn can lead to greater citizen engagement and greater voter pressure on all governments to make longer-term investments in prevention.

The greatest value of *Less Law, More Order: The Truth about Reducing Crime* is that it provides proof positive that crime prevention through social development works. And while the author missed a valuable opportunity to build on the current collaborative crime prevention planning, his contribution can generate further meaningful dialogue on this issue.

In the meantime, hope springs eternal. Perhaps Waller's next publication will suggest a more progressive way forward that will capture and built upon the current goodwill among all practitioners.

Edgar A. MacLeod, LL.D (HC), OOM, is Chief of Police with the Cape Breton Regional Police Service and Past President of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police.

Less Law, More Order: The Truth about Reducing Crime, by Irvin Waller, is published by Praeger Publishers. It can be ordered on-line from **www.greenwood.com** for $39.95.

Upcoming Report:
The Health of North American Children

Photo by Deanna Leon-Cook, Splatsin Child Care Society, BC

ENSURING SECURITY & PROSPERITY FOR NORTH AMERICAN CHILDREN WILL REQUIRE A SUSTAINABLE PLAN

The second report in the popular *Growing Up in North America* series will be available to CCSD members and partners in Spring 2007.

Produced by a tri-lateral research team representing Mexico, Canada and the United States, the report will assess the current health and identify emerging health trends among children in North America. It will also make the case for a more rigorous system of collecting and tracking measures of child well-being.

Children make up more than one-quarter of all people living in North America today – about 120 million in all. Despite the enormous size of this group, however, there are significant gaps in knowledge and data about how well – or how poorly – children are actually doing.

The report identifies disturbing trends in the number of Mexican children who die from cancers. For example, leukemia accounts for 27% of all cancer deaths among Canadian children aged 5 to 14 and for 31% among American children; in Mexico, however, 58% of cancer deaths for children in this age group are caused by leukemia.

The research team also assembled data on what some experts now say is the greatest health risk facing children. All three countries report that rates of obesity and being overweight among youth are high – ranging from 26% to 30%. Paradoxically, however, while obesity rates soar, many children in Canada and the U.S. live with hunger and growing numbers of Mexican children suffer from malnutrition and anaemia.

The report will also include a wealth of data on chemical exposure, mental health issues, respiratory problems, and injury and death rates.

The Children in North America Project (CINA) was established to highlight the conditions and well-being of children and youth in Canada, the United States, and Mexico. A series of indicator reports will be published to help build a better understanding of how our children are faring today and the opportunities and challenges they will face in the future.

» The first report, an overview of child well-being, was released in May 2006.

» ***Child Health and Safety in Canada, the United States and Mexico*** is the second report in this series. It will be released in Spring 2007 and will be available for download – in English, French, and Spanish – from the CCSD's website at **www.ccsd.ca**.

A limited number of hard copies will also be available.

» Subsequent reports under the CINA project will focus on economic issues (Fall 2007), education (2008), and civic engagement (2008).

Funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation in Baltimore, the project was initially designed to build an improved knowledge base, including measures of child well-being. The project has since expanded to bring some of that knowledge forward in an effort to widen the scope of tri-lateral discussions going on at the government level.

In 2005, the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) committed the governments of Canada, the U.S. and Mexico to develop "a North American framework to confront security and economic challenges, and promote the full potential of our people, addressing disparities and increasing opportunities for all."

So far, the SPP has focussed primarily on security measures and has developed detailed policy recommendations for monitoring things like textile production, apparel labelling, and shipping. But issues as fundamental as children's health and development have been largely ignored.

"Without detailed monitoring and reporting, how can we make wise and cost-effective decisions in support of our children and youth?" asks Louise Hanvey, a leading Canadian expert on child development and principal author of ***Growing Up in North America: Child Health and Safety in Canada, the United States and Mexico.***

"Obviously good health is an important factor in having children reach their fullest potential," says Hanvey. "And while there are some differences in the health challenges that children across the continent face, there are surprising similarities. In fact, we've identified a number of critical health problems among children in North America that could – and should – be addressed through tri-national initiatives."

"Individually and collectively, the children of North America matter," says Katherine Scott, head of research at the CCSD and a member of the Canadian project team. "So when our governments assess the impact of their economic decisions and policies, it is important that they make children a priority. Whether we have a healthy, well-educated and skilled workforce for the future will depend on how well we care for our children today."

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

Decision-making without data can lead to costly mistakes.

When the three North American government leaders meet again – tentatively scheduled for June in Kannanaskis, Alberta – to try to promote opportunities for partnership, they cannot overlook the continent's children and youth. Security and prosperity is more complex than getting trucks across borders and developing common industrial standards. It requires a sustainable plan for the future of children and youth.

Since the first overview report on *Growing Up in North America* was released in May 2006, the English version has been downloaded more than 13,000 times from the CCSD's website alone, and there have been more than 2,600 downloads of the French report. In addition, almost 1,000 printed copies of the report have been distributed.

Visitors to the CCSD website understand that children are growing up in a world profoundly different than the one that existed a generation ago. Research indicates that in times of major societal change – as we are going through now – improvements in the lives of families can make a child's transition from infancy to young adulthood more secure and their prospects more positive.

Since we share responsibility to provide young people with the support they need to grow up healthy and well prepared for their place in the world, it will require shared leadership and the development of public policies to improve the outcomes for all children in North America.

Our hope is that the Prosperity Partnership will seize the moment.

BOOKMARK THIS!

www.ccsd.ca/factsheets/

Stats & Facts is the CCSD's popular online tool for people who need concise, credible, up-to-date facts in a hurry.

Stats & Facts is a series of subject-based fact sheets, each containing a collection of useful information and straightforward charts and tables. The series currently includes fact sheets on health, education, demographics, and families. In the coming months, we will be adding fact sheets on economic security and the labour market.

Did you know...?

- The Yukon has the highest literacy scores in Canada.
- 22% of Canadians over age 12 were smokers in 2005, down slightly from 2003 (23%). Over the decade, the percentage of smokers has dropped by four percentage points.
- In 2001, 70.4% of families were married couples, 13.8% were common-law relationships, and the remaining 15.6% were lone-parent families.
- About one-third of Canada's Aboriginal population are children under the age of 14 – significantly higher than the corresponding 18% proportion among the non-Aboriginal population. And while Aboriginals represent 3.3% of Canada's total population, they comprise 5.6% of all children in Canada.
- Seniors in the Aboriginal population (that is, those over the age of 65) are relatively few – 4.1% in comparison to almost three times that proportion (12.8%) in the non-Aboriginal population.
- Obesity rates did not vary significantly by level of household income in 2004.
- According to the 2001 Census data, almost 4 million people in Canada identified themselves as being members of visible minority groups. This represented 13.4% of Canada's total population.
- The largest visible minority group in Canada is Chinese. In 2001, approximately one million Chinese people lived here, accounting for 25.8% of Canada's visible minority population.
- Four types of cancer account for 55% of all new cancer cases in Canada. The three leading cancers among men are prostate, lung, and colorectal cancer; for women, it is breast, lung, and colorectal cancer.
- In 2003, 44% of Canada's working-age population (those aged 25 to 64) had a college or university degree. This was the highest ranking among all 21 OECD countries. The United States was ranked second, at 38%, and Japan was third with 37%.
- The proportion of Canada's population who were foreign-born reached 5.4 million in 2001. This represented 18.4% of the total population that year.
- In 2004, 48.6% of the Canadian population were married, 41.8% were single, and the remainder (9.6%) were divorced or widowed.
- The average age of brides in 2002 was 31.5 years, while the average age of grooms was 34 years.
- In 2003/04, there were only enough regulated child care spaces to accommodate 15.5% of Canadian children aged 0 to 12.
- In 2003, 67.9% of female lone-parents with children under age 16 living at home were employed, compared with 72.3% of mothers in two-parent families with children under 16.
- Almost 2,250,000 Canadians – 8.3% of the population over age 12 – suffered from asthma in 2005.
- The cost of raising a daughter to age 18 was an average of $166,549 in 2004. The figure was slightly higher for boys – at $166,972 – due to extra costs for food.
- Over the last several years, tuition fees have been rising in Canada. In 2005/06, average undergraduate tuition fees were $4,214 – up 26.6% from 1999/2000.
- Per capita spending is the total amount spent on health care divided by the number of people in the population. In 2005, per capita health care spending in Canada was expected to reach $4,441 – an increase of 6.9% over the previous year.
- In 1978/79, 13.8% of the Canadian population over age 18 were obese; by 2004, nearly one-quarter (23.1%) were obese.
- Canada's adult obesity rate in 2003/04 was lower than that of the United States – 23.1% and 30.6% respectively – but very poor in comparison to other OECD countries.
- Internationally, Canada has relatively low smoking rates. In 2004, Canada's adult smoking rate was 15%, while France and Germany had rates of 23% and 24%. Japan had one of the highest smoking rates among OECD nations (29.4%); the United States and Australia had rates slightly higher than those of Canada (17%).
- In 2001, just over one million Canadians aged 12 and older were living with diabetes; by 2005, the number had climbed to 1.3 million – an increase of almost 25% in just four years.
- Depression is the most prevalent mental health condition. In 2002, 1.2 million Canadians – 4.8% of the population aged 15 and older – said they had suffered from depressive episodes in the previous year.

Strengthening Ties

SPOs meet face-to-face

Local social planning organizations (SPOs) from across Canada have begun talking seriously about how they can collaborate on common issues, influence government policy, and raise public awareness about inequality.

Thirty representatives of SPOs met in Toronto last May and agreed that networking has strategic value. "The need for collaborative work on key community issues was clear to the group," says Joey Edwardh, Executive Director of Community Development Halton. "There is an advantage to having many voices carry a common message."

The question of how to network effectively has plagued social planning organizations for decades. And as resources become scarcer and the challenges more complex, local social planning organizations are finding it more difficult to look beyond their communities. In addition, they are a diverse group with different working styles and priorities. What they do have in common is the impact of decisions made at the federal and provincial levels on their organizations and their communities.

"It has been tough on shops like ours from smaller communities," says Randall Hatfield, Executive Director of the Human Development Council in Saint John, New Brunswick. "It is an invaluable resource to small SPOs to be able to pick up the phone and get input from beyond our local boundaries. And this kind of networking evolves from having had the opportunity to meet face-to-face. On many projects, the results wouldn't have been as effective if we had been working in isolation. Sticking together has never been more necessary."

Now in its 40th year of operation, British Columbia's Social Planning and Research Council (SPARC) is one of Canada's best-established SPOs with a good track record on research and public education.

"But it's not all that different for organizations like ours with larger capacity," says Executive Director Nancy Henderson. "We face many of the same challenges when it comes to raising our heads up from our work to engage on these national issues. Having a network of SPOs creates a place to make sure that kind of work gets done."

A steering group has identified regular communications as a first step in developing those working relationships.

"The CCSD will support this goal by keeping the group connected and facilitating the sharing of information through e-mail, teleconferences, and our website," says Council President Peter Bleyer.

"Social planning councils have been doing important work for decades," says Wayne Helgason, Executive Director of the Winnipeg Social Planning Council. "Showcasing the work we do as individual organizations and collectively is a good start. It helps demonstrate how smart decisions come from understanding your community and the people who live there."

Representatives of SPOs from every region of Canada were invited to participate in this initial meeting, which received support from Human Resources and Social Development Canada.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

A summary report on the May 2006 meeting of Social Planning Organizations is available on the CCSD's website at **www.ccsd.ca/pubs/2006/spn/spo_meeting_may2006.pdf**.

STEERING GROUP MEMBERS

- Canadian Council on Social Development
- John Campey, Executive Director, Social Planning Council of Toronto
- Joey Edwardh, Executive Director, Community Development Halton
- Randall Hatfield, Executive Director, Human Services Council, Saint John
- Wayne Helgason, Executive Director, Social Planning Council of Winnipeg
- Nancy Henderson, Executive Director, Social Planning and Research Council of BC

The Urban Poverty Project

- a new resource tool for communities

To paraphrase Albert Einstein, not everything that counts in a community can be counted. But it is a good start.

Gaining access to reliable and comparable local social data is a luxury for many communities. It is an expensive, sometimes technically difficult process that can be beyond the scope of many planning organizations, community development groups, and indeed, many municipalities. Yet the need for reliable local data has become more acute as communities are asked to do more – way more – with much less.

The CCSD's Urban Poverty Project presents accessible and reliable data in a multi-layered "statistical map" that can help inform effective and co-ordinated decision-making at the national, provincial, and community levels.

Community Profiles is the first in a series of Urban Poverty Project products. Released in January 2007, it is available on the CCSD's website (**www.ccsd.ca**).

The simple premise of the profiles is to provide select data from the 2001 Census in an easy-to-grasp fact sheet format. The profiles contain national and provincial statistics about population, households, labour force activity, education levels, and more – a total of 13 key social indicators. The report then "drills down" to provide equivalent information on a total of 111 urban communities across Canada. (The fact sheet on the right illustrates this user-friendly presentation style and provides select demographic data for Canada.)

Other products in this series will include an analysis of urban poverty issues over the 1990s and a detailed snapshot of urban poverty in Canada using the Census data. They are scheduled for release in early 2007.

All materials from the Urban Poverty Project will be made available on-line and free of charge at **www.ccsd.ca**, as part of the CCSD's commitment to provide reliable, accessible data to the widest possible audience.

To receive updates on the Urban Poverty Project, contact us at: Clarke@ccsd.ca.

CANADA: Selected Demographic Statistics from the 2001 Census

Population	
Population (2001)	30,007,094
Population change (1996 to 2001)	4.0%

Gender	
Male	49.0%
Female	51.0%

Age Groups	Male	Female
0 to 19 years	27.1%	24.8%
20 to 64 years	61.6%	60.0%
65+ years	11.3%	14.8%

Economic Families		
Total	8,273,220	100.0%
Couples with no children under 18	3,908,270	48.2%
Couples with children under 18	2,968,495	36.6%
Lone-parent families, children under 18	713,750	8.8%
Other families	602,705	7.3%
Non-elderly families	6,774,865	81.9%
Elderly families	1,498,355	18.1%

Total	3,892,100	100.0%
Non-elderly women	1,462,200	37.6%
Non-elderly men	1,535,000	39.4%
Elderly women	802,400	21.6%
Elderly men	292,600	8.0%

Population Groups (all persons)*		
Total	29,105,700	
Recent immigrants	967,500	3.0%
Visible minorities	3,983,400	14.0%
Aboriginal identity	651,500	2.0%
With disabilities	4,835,200	16.0%

Education Levels (all persons aged 15 to 64)		
Total	19,969,200	100.0%
Post-secondary certificate	7,721,400	38.0%
Secondary	4,929,800	25.0%
Less than secondary	7,307,700	37.0%

Labour Force Activity (population aged 15+)	
Participation rate	66.4%
Employment rate	61.5%
Unemployment rate	7.4%
With no children at home	
Participation rate	58.6%
Employment rate	53.8%
Unemployment rate	8.7%
With children at home	
Participation rate	78.8%
Employment rate	74.1%
Unemployment rate	5.9%

Earnings Income in 2000 (population aged 15+)	
Average employment income	$31,757
Worked full-time, full year	52.2%
Average employment income	$43,231
Worked part-time or part year	45.2%
Average employment income	$19,673

Composition of Total Income in 2000 (population aged 15+)	
Employment income	77.1%
Government transfer payments	11.6%
Other	11.2%

Incidence of Low Income in 2000	
Population in private households	16.2%
Economic families	12.8%
Unattached individuals aged 15+ years	38.0%

Rental Households	
Proportion of renters	34.3%
Average gross monthly rent	$648
Proportion spending 30%+ of household income on gross rent	39.6%

Owner Households	
Proportion of owners	65.7%
Average monthly payments	$835
Proportion spending 30%+ of household income on major payments	18.0%

*Population groups not mutually exclusive. Total includes only persons in private households.

Notes: See Glossary for definitions of terms. Percentages based on unrounded figures. Average of each may be present due to rounding of figures.

Source: Prepared by the Canadian Council on Social Development using data from Statistics Canada's 2001 Census, custom calculations.

Urban Poverty Project: www.ccsd.ca

Are you a Member of the CCSD?

If not, you should consider joining because you'll enjoy great benefits including savings on all publications and a free subscription to *Perception*.

CCSD IS WORKING FOR YOU

The Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD) is one of Canada's key authoritative voices on social policy issues. Since 1920, the Council has been speaking up for the needs of Canadian children and families, the disadvantaged and the poor through research, consultations, public education and advocacy. Our books and research reports provide authoritative information and analysis, covering income security and poverty, employment and labour market issues, social policy, cultural diversity, crime prevention, and much more.

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- **regular information packages** outlining CCSD activities, research highlights and new publications
- **at least 15% discount** on all publications
- and more...

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❒ $ 100 Individual Services Plus Member
❒ $ 100 Organizational Member
❒ $ 250 Organizational Patron Member
❒ $ 500 Organizational Supporting Member
❒ Other $ _____

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